

William Toogood Limited

The initials 'WT' were used by William Toogood Limited, 77, Southwark Street, London, S,E.1. Hairdressers & Chemists Sundriesmen, and prior to World War 1 at Heddon Street, Regent Street, London, W.1.

The writer was employed by this firm during 1931-36, at Southwark Street, as a junior' clerk. On occasions it was his job to trot through the back entrance to the sub-post office in Union Street, S.E.1. to purchase stamps, and on return to the office, to fold the stamps in strips and perforate them with a small hand punch. Albeit the perfs could well be up-side down and back to front, all to make sure that the precious ½d & 1d stamps were not subject to unauthorised use.

It was a typically old fashioned family business handed down through 3 or 4 generations, the office being somewhat Dickensian with desks along the wall and high stools for the staff. Several times a day the foreman packer would come up to the office and offer snuff to such as might wish to partake. All invoices were hand copied into very large and heavy day books (the writers job) and although they had two motor vans, deliveries morning and afternoon were made in the West End by horse and cart.

The premises at Southwark Street were bombed in the 2nd War and the offices transferred to their factory in Borough High Street S.E.1., but the business finally closed a few years later.

R.E. Mason.
Bulletin Editor,
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